Revenue from Open Sky Policy

655. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether interests of national carriers, Air India and Indian Airlines, have been adequately safeguarded with the announcement of Open Sky Policy to all foreign airlines from December 2003 till 2004;

(b) if so, whether any additional revenue is expected to be generated by our national carriers also; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to allow domestic private carriers like Jet and Sahara Airlines to operate on international routes so that Government could earn maximum additional revenue through increased foreign tourist traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The open sky policy announced for December, 2003 to February, 2004 is aimed at clearing the peak winter rush, when most airlines invariably operate with a very high load. Besides, operation of additional flights by foreign airlines under this policy is subject to existing terms of the commercial agreement with Air India and Indian Airlines. This would also enable Air India and Indian Airlines to earn additional revenue.

(c) Action is at hand to give effect to the Joint Statement issued during the recent visit of the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, which provides for operations of private domestic airlines to Sri Lanka.

Policy on private aviation companies

656. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow the Private Aviation Companies for air flights in the country; and

(b) what are the terms and conditions and the details of that policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) As per the existing policy, private domestic aviation companies are permitted to operate scheduled, non-scheduled and cargo air transport services on domestic routes in the country.

(b) The detailed terms and conditions of starting such operations are given in various Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs), Aeronautical Information Circulars (AICs) etc. issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).